Claims

1. A pellet comprising
   a) a central, rounded or spherical core having a diameter from about 710 to about 1180 μm (16-25 mesh);
   b) a coating film of a water-soluble polymer and an antifungal agent, and
   c) a seal-coating polymer layer,

   characterized in that the residual concentration of dichloromethane in said pellet is less than 600 ppm.

2. A pellet according to claim 1 comprising by weight based on the total weight of the pellet :
   a) 35 to 60 percent core material;
   b) 23 to 37 percent water-soluble polymer;
   c) 15 to 25 percent antifungal agent; and
   d) 2 to 4 percent seal-coating polymer.

3. A pellet according to claim 2 wherein the core material is a 710-850 μm (20-25 mesh) sugar core, the water-soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the antifungal agent is itraconazole.

4. A pellet according to claim 3 wherein the weight to weight ratio of antifungal agent : water-soluble polymer is about 1:1 to about 1:2.

5. A pellet according to claim 2 wherein the seal-coating polymer is polyethylene glycol.

6. A pellet according to claim 3 comprising approximately :
   a) 40 to 43 percent sugar cores;
   b) 30 to 35 percent hydroxypropyl methylcellulose 2910 5 mPa.s.
   c) 20 to 25 percent itraconazole or saperconazole; and
   d) 2 to 4 percent polyethylene glycol 20000.

7. A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising an effective antifungal amount of pellets as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.

8. A dosage form according to claim 7 wherein the dosage form is a hard-gelatin capsule.

9. A process for preparing pellets as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 characterized by,
    a) coating sugar cores by spraying onto them with a solution of an antifungal agent and a water-soluble polymer in an organic solvent consisting of methylene chloride and ethanol in a fluidized-bed granulator equipped with a Wurster (bottom spray) insert;

    b) drying the resulting coated cores in vacuo by irradiating said cores with microwave or radiofrequency radiation; and

    c) seal-coating the dried cores by spraying onto them with a solution of a seal-coating polymer in an organic solvent consisting of methylene chloride and ethanol in a fluidized-bed granulator equipped with a Wurster (bottom spray) insert.

10. Drug-coated pellets obtainable by a process according to claim 9.